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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 SANAA 002956

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [MASS](#) [PARM](#) [YM](#) [MARITIME](#) [SECURITY](#)

SUBJECT: CJTF HOA COMMANDER GHORMLEY VISITS ADEN

REF: SANAA 1338

Classified By: Ambassador Thomas C. Krajeski for reasons 1.4 b and d.

[11.](#) (U) Summary. On October 1, visiting Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) Commander MG Timothy Ghormley and Ambassador traveled to Aden for meetings with the Governor of Aden, Yemen Coast Guard (YCG) and regional military commanders. MG Ghormley and Ambassador also participated in a dedication ceremony at YCG headquarters for four USG donated quick-response boats. Yemeni officials expressed gratitude for USG assistance to the YCG and lauded its positive impact on Aden's economy. End Comment.

Yemen Coast Guard Receives New Boats

[12.](#) (U) MG Ghormley and Ambassador attended a dedication ceremony for four 25-foot Defender Class Boats provided to the Yemen Coast Guard through the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) Program. The new boats, identical to ones used by the U.S. Coast Guard, will significantly improve YCG's ability to respond quickly to security threats. During a well-attended press conference, Ambassador congratulated YCG officials for creating a competent and capable force aimed at reducing the threat of terror and improving border security. Brigadier Ali Ahmed Rassa, YCG Chairman, thanked the USG for its "positive role" in supporting his organization's development into an active partner in the fight against terrorism. (Note: Since 2002, FMF has provided over \$18 million to establish, develop, and train the Yemeni Coast Guard).

Aden Governor: Coast Guard Good for Economy

[13.](#) (U) Governor Shuabi credited the YCG for improving maritime security and helping make Aden port attractive to investors. He expressed confidence in the port's economic future, saying insurance companies recently lifted the risk premium placed on ships following the 2000 attack on the USS Cole. Shuabi was also confident that Dubai Ports International (DPI), which recently won a 35-year concession to operate and develop Aden Port and Aden Container Terminal (reftel), would dramatically increase port capacity and fuel economic growth.

[14.](#) (U) Shuabi hoped port improvements would attract more than just ships, saying only the central government benefited from increased fees and customs. An improved business climate and more jobs is what the region really needs, he continued, to meet the challenges of providing for a population that has doubled in the last ten years. Ambassador hoped that Parliament would soon pass a new law giving local governments the authority to collect revenue, rather than rely on payments from the Ministry of Finance.

Military District Commander: YCG Doing Well, but...

[15.](#) (C) MG Ghormley thanked MG Madhi Maqwala for the military's support in the GWOT and looked forward to increased cooperation on security issues, including stemming the flow of small arms/light weapons. Maqwala acknowledged the important role the YCG plays in improving border security, but requested increased assistance for the military's efforts to achieve full control over the borders. Office of Military Cooperation (OMC) Chief commented that embassy officials were working with MOD staff to focus security assistance on shared priorities.

District Navy Commander: We Want a Closer Relationship

[16.](#) (C) MG Ghormley thanked BGen Mohammed Ali Ibrahim for the Navy's commitment to combating terrorism and encouraged increased cooperation with YCG officials. "The region needs Yemen to have a strong navy," Ghormley said, adding that the USG stood ready to support its development. Ambassador stressed that maritime security was essential to providing the conditions under which Yemen can achieve its development goals.

17. (C) Ibrahim said the Navy wants to strengthen its relationship with the USG and see "more tangible results" from that relationship. "We need money too," Ibrahim commented, to support counter-terrorism operations. OMC Chief commented that the USG provided \$4 million over the last year to improve the Navy's maintenance capability. Ghormley introduced the new U.S. military maritime liaison officer for Yemen and looked forward to helping the Navy focus its funding priorities.

18. (C) Comment: MOD forces frequently complain about USG assistance to the YCG, even though the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) program has provided millions of dollars to support the military, including the Navy. Envy still runs high, however, as MOD has not yet learned to utilize the FMF program as effectively as their MOI and Coast Guard counterparts. The Navy remains the weakest of all the armed forces and is frequently unable to even move their ships out to sea due to poor maintenance. End Comment.

Krajeski